

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A modular spring support mounting arrangement for a sash window spring counterbalance arrangement ~~of the type including a plurality of coiled ribbon springs,~~ the modular spring support mounting arrangement being adapted to be fitted within a window jamb channel and to support and secure ~~the~~ springs within the window jamb channel; the modular spring support mounting arrangement comprising:

a plurality of coiled ribbon springs,

at least a first spring support mounting element and a second spring support mounting element, each for supporting a respective coil spring,

the first spring support mounting element including a pair of interengagement projections which extend normally from the spring support mounting element and are laterally spaced apart, and

the second spring support mounting element including an interengagement fitting which engages the pair of interengagement projections to in use securely interconnect the first and second spring support mounting elements together; and

at least one of:

the interengagement fitting and

interengagement projections

define and provide a support surface on which a respective coiled ribbon spring sits in direct contact therewith for directly supporting said one of the coiled ribbon springs such that the interengagement fitting and interengagement projections together perform a dual function of connecting together said spring support mounting elements and supporting the respective coiled ribbon spring directly thereon.

2. (Previously Presented) A modular spring support mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 14 in which the interengagement fitting comprises a dovetail cross section projection which is engaged between the laterally spaced wedged shaped cross section projections.

3. (Previously Presented) A modular spring support mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 14 in which the interengagement fitting comprises a narrowed neck portion corresponding to a lateral spacing between the pair of laterally spaced wedge shaped cross section projections, and the narrowed neck portion is engaged between the pair of laterally spaced wedge shaped cross

section projections to in use securely interconnect the first and second spring support mounting elements together.

4. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A modular spring support mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 1 in which the interengagement fitting comprises a pair of corresponding shoulder supports upon which the respective interengagement projections abut and are engaged.

5. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A modular spring support mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 4 in which each of the shoulder supports comprises a cradle corresponding to, and for, a respective wedged shaped cross section interengagement projection, and in which each of the shoulder supports further comprises a lip edge which hooks over an upper apex edge of the respective wedged shaped cross section interengagement projection fitted to vertically secure the wedge shaped cross section projections vertically within the shoulder support.

6. (Currently Amended) A modular spring support mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 1 in which the interengagement fitting and pair of interengagement projections are adapted to engage and securely interconnect the first and second spring support mounting elements together by aligning the

interengagement fitting and pair of interengagement projections and laterally sliding the spring support mounting elements relative to each other.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method of installing a modular spring support mounting arrangement for a sash window spring counterbalance arrangement within a window jamb channel; the modular spring support mounting arrangement comprising at least a first spring support mounting element and a second spring support mounting element, and a plurality of coiled ribbon springs, the first and second spring support mounting elements including a corresponding interlocking arrangement to securely interlock the spring support mounting elements together, the interlocking arrangement comprises an interengagement fitting and corresponding interengagement projection; the method comprising the steps of:

a) inserting the first spring support mounting element into the window jamb channel,

b) laterally aligning the corresponding interlocking arrangement of the first and second spring support mounting elements, and then

c) laterally sliding the second spring support mounting element relative to the first spring support mounting element to engage the interlocking arrangement and securely interlock the spring support mounting elements together within the window jamb channel.

d) defining and providing a support surface by such that at least one of the interengagement fitting and interengagement projection ~~also define and provide a support surface, and~~

e) seating for one of the coiled ribbon springs in direct contact on the support surface defined by said at least one of the interengagement fitting and interengagement projection for directly supporting said one of the coiled ribbon springs on said support surface such that the interengagement fitting and interengagement projections together perform a dual function of connecting together said spring support mounting elements and supporting the respective coiled ribbon spring directly thereon.

10. (Previously Presented) A method of installing a modular spring support mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 9 further comprising the step of, after inserting the first spring support mounting element into the window jamb channel, longitudinally

sliding the first spring support mounting element within the window jamb channel to align the corresponding interlocking arrangement of the first and second spring support mounting elements.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of installing a modular spring support mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 9 further comprising the step of longitudinally sliding the first and second spring support mounting elements within the window jamb channel to a required mounting position along the length of the window jamb channel.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of installing a modular spring support mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 9 in which the window jamb channel includes an access opening at a position along the length of the channel and further comprising the step of laterally inserting ~~which~~ the first and second spring support mounting elements through the opening into the window jamb channel.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A modular spring support mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 1 in which the pair of

projections comprise a pair of wedge shaped cross section projections which are inwardly oppositely directed.